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Subject: August Farm Labor Jobs

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Suggested use: Background information

Crop harvesting will hold the spotlight on the farm labor front during August. The biggest single job will be the harvesting, curing, and marketing of flue-cured tobacco in Georgia and the Carolinas, where 66,000,000 man-hours of labor will be needed. Other big jobs facing farmers are the cutting and storing of hay in the Dairy Belt, harvesting of vegetables in the Cotton Belt, Dairy Belt, and general farming area, the harvesting of oats in the Corn and Dairy Belts, and wheat harvesting in the spring wheat area. (See attached table for complete labor needs.)

General indications continue to point to the fact that farm labor needs must be met primarily through local mobilizations. Another significant fact is that the emergency volunteer workers from the cities and towns cannot fully take the place of experienced farm labor. The regular farm workers, including unpaid family workers, operators, and hired hands, have been able to plant and cultivate about 347,000,000 acres -- the largest acreage since 1932. It was never expected that this force of farm workers would be able to harvest this large acreage. However, this year's harvest can be accomplished by the regular farm labor force, with the assistance of townspeople who are volunteering their services to farmers in their vicinity.

The latest BAE Farm Labor Report estimated that 11,749,000 persons were employed on farms on July 1, about 2 percent less than for the same period of 1942. Based on farm employment indications so far this year, the BAE estimate is that an additional 200,000 workers will be required in each of the next 3 months in order to equal last year's level. Since this estimate is based on full-time workers, however, it is possible that several times this number of persons will have to be recruited for farm work, because many town and city people will be able to work only part time.

Another item which might prevent these estimates from reflecting the true labor situation is the change in composition of the farm labor force. Town and city people, including women, children, and older men, are now doing much of the work formerly done by experienced and able-bodied farm workers. Since many city volunteers obviously cannot do the work as efficiently as experienced laborers, total requirements in number of workers may be larger than would otherwise be the case.

The labor shortage, of course, varies considerably by areas. Though the

difficulty in obtaining enough experienced farm workers is felt in all branches of food production, the greatest need for additional workers in August seem to be on those farms that will be harvesting hay, wheat, and fruits and vegetables. Some types of fruit and vegetable harvesting can be handled well by women and young people.

Reports from all parts of the country seem to indicate that the general prejudice of farmers against the use of women and youth in farm work is gradually being broken down. Although that prejudice still exists in some places, farmers generally are now willing to accept city workers, especially in those areas where the need is greatest and crops are in danger of being lost.

On the other side of the picture, the general impression is that most city people now realize the seriousness of the farm labor problem and have indicated their willingness to do their part in relieving the labor shortage.

The U. S. Crop Corps is now pretty well established in most counties in the form of local mobilizations conducted by county agents and farm labor committees. Though the term "Crop Corps" may not be used in all cases, the local volunteer workers are definitely a part of this national effort to meet local farm labor needs.

Major Farm Labor Needs in August

<u>Area</u>	<u>Estimated man-hours needed</u>
<u>Dairy Belt</u> (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, eastern Minnesota, New Hampshire, northern New Jersey, New York, northeastern Ohio, northern Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin.)	
Hay - cutting and storing . . . . .	63,000,000
Oats - harvesting . . . . .	28,000,000
Snap beans - harvesting . . . . .	9,000,000
Apples - harvesting . . . . .	5,000,000
Tomatoes - harvesting . . . . .	1,000,000
Miscellaneous vegetables - harvesting . . . . .	30,000,000
<u>General Farming Area</u> (Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, southern New Jersey, northern North Carolina, southern Ohio, southern Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.)	
Winter wheat - harvesting and marketing . . . . .	8,000,000
Snap beans - harvesting . . . . .	500,000
Irish potatoes - harvesting . . . . .	1,750,000
Tomatoes - harvesting . . . . .	4,500,000
Miscellaneous vegetables - harvesting . . . . .	35,000,000
Peaches - picking . . . . .	2,500,000
<u>Cotton Belt</u> (Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, southern North Carolina, eastern Oklahoma, South Carolina, eastern and central Texas.)	
Peaches - picking . . . . .	1,750,000
Miscellaneous vegetables - harvesting . . . . .	40,000,000
Tobacco - harvesting (Georgia and Carolinas) . . . . .	66,000,000
<u>Corn Belt</u> (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, northeastern Kansas, northern Missouri, eastern Nebraska, northwestern Ohio, southeastern South Dakota.)	
Oats - harvesting . . . . .	32,000,000
Winter wheat - harvesting . . . . .	4,000,000
Apples - harvesting . . . . .	1,200,000
Tomatoes - harvesting . . . . .	3,000,000
<u>Spring Wheat Area</u> (western Minnesota, northeastern Montana, North Dakota, north central Oregon, northeastern South Dakota, western Washington.)	
Spring wheat - harvesting . . . . .	31,000,000
<u>Winter Wheat Area</u> (eastern Colorado, Kansas, southwestern Nebraska, western Oklahoma, north central Oregon, northwestern Texas, western Washington.)	
Winter wheat - harvesting . . . . .	10,000,000
<u>Citrus Fruit Area</u> (California, Florida, Texas.)	
Citrus fruits - picking and hauling . . . . .	1,400,000
<u>West Coast</u> (Washington, Oregon, California.)	
Peaches - picking (California) . . . . .	1,400,000
Miscellaneous vegetables - harvesting (California). . . . .	3,000,000
Hops - picking . . . . .	3,500,000
Hay - cutting and storing . . . . .	12,500,000
<u>Sugar Beet Area</u> (California, Michigan, Ohio.)	
Sugar beets - harvesting . . . . .	3,000,000



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